

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for picking up a freshly extruded tacky plastic product lying on a conveyor belt comprising:

setting down on longitudinal margins of the conveyor belt one or more resilient carrier plates, wherein the carrier plates settle resiliently on a surface of the conveyor belt as the carrier plates press against the conveyor belt, and

picking up the freshly extruded tacky plastic product by the one or more carrier plates by slipping the carrier plate or plates between the plastic product and [a] the surface of the belt and peeling the plastic product off the surface of the conveyor belt.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for picking up a tacky plastic product lying on a conveyor belt, the apparatus comprising:

transversely driven resilient carrier plates adapted to slip under and lift the tacky plastic product by its lateral margins by peeling the tacky plastic product from a surface of the conveyor belt, and ~~thereby pick it up~~

a lift drive configured to lower the carrier plates so that the carrier plates settle resiliently on the surface of the conveyor belt when the carrier plates press against the surface of the conveyor belt.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the carrier plates are made from spring steel.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the further comprising a lifting drive is on a lifting spindle adapted to resiliently urge the carrier plates against the surface of the conveyor belt, for insertion underneath the plastic product, and

wherein the apparatus further comprises a cross rail on which the carrier plates are adapted to be driven toward a longitudinal central axis.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the carrier plates are adapted to engage in a slanting application.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a device for cleaning the carrier plates attached in an area of cross travel drives.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a drive adapted to transport the plastic product on a track.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a cleaning device, wherein the cleaning device is adapted to engage with and clean the carrier plates cyclically or after x-cycles.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein bearing surfaces of the carrier plates and/or of the conveyor belt have a parting coat.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising treating bearing surfaces of the carrier plates and/or of the conveyor belt repeatedly with talc.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a roller coating unit adapted to coat the conveyor belt with a parting agent in a bottom return run of the conveyor belt.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising treating bearing surfaces of the carrier plates and/or of the conveyor belt with talc cyclically or after x-cycles.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for picking up a plastic product lying on a conveyor belt, the apparatus comprising:

transversely driven carrier plates adapted to slip under and lift the plastic product by its lateral margins and thereby pick it up,

wherein the conveyor belt is a wire grating belt having a spacing between wires, and

wherein a width of one of the carrier plates is larger than the spacing of the wires in the conveyor belt.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of cleaning the carrier plates in which plastic residues are stripped away ~~by a divided stroke in~~ a cleaning device.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of cleaning the carrier plates in which the carrier plates are cleaned cyclically or after a number of cycles.

17. (Currently Amended) A system comprising: ~~The apparatus according to claim 2,~~  
~~further comprising~~

a conveyor belt;

an apparatus for picking up a tacky plastic product, the apparatus comprising:

transversely driven resilient carrier plates adapted to slip under and lift the tacky plastic product by its lateral margins by peeling the tacky plastic product from a surface of the conveyor belt, and

a lift drive configured to lower the carrier plates so that the carrier plates settle resiliently on the surface of the conveyor belt when the carrier plates press against the surface of the conveyor belt; and

a molding press for receiving the plastic product picked up by the carrier plates.